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EXAMINER

LEE, PHILIP C

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2154

DATE MAILED: 03/31/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/091,067

Applicant(s)

VINBERG, ANDERS

Examiner

Philip C. Lee

Art Unit

2154

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 January 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 12, 14 and 16 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Art Unit: 2154

1. This action is responsive to the amendment and remarks filed on October 06, 2005.
2. Claims 1, 3-11, 13, 15 and 17-24 are presented for examination, claim 2 is canceled, and claims 12, 14 and 16 are withdrawn from consideration.
3. This application contains claims 12, 14 and 16 drawn to an invention nonelected without traverse. A complete reply to the final rejection must include cancellation of nonelected claims or other appropriate action (37 CFR 1.144) See MPEP § 821.01.
4. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. code not included in this office action can be found in a prior office action.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 2154

6. Claims 1, 4, 9, 13, 15, 17, 20-21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ward et al, U.S. Patent 5,367,670 (hereinafter Ward) in view of Cote et al, U.S. Patent 6,021,262 (hereinafter Cote).

7. Ward was cited in the last office action.

8. As per claims 1, 13 and 15, Ward taught the invention as claimed for generating an audio alert, comprising:

detecting an alert condition (col. 5, lines 15-20)

determining a notification path associated with the alert condition (col. 8, line 64-col.9, lines 16; col. 12, lines 58-64);

constructing an audio notification message based on at least one parameter associated with the alert condition (col. 5, lines 21-32; col. 12, lines 34-64); and

outputting the audio notification message via the notification path (col. 7, lines 25-57).

9. Ward did not teach a multi-tiered notification path. Cote taught a similar invention comprising: a multi-tiered notification path, each tier of the notification path identifying one or more users assigned a level of responsibility with respect to the alert condition (col. 7, lines 19-28).

10. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Ward and Cote because Cote's teaching of

Art Unit: 2154

multi-tiered notification path would increase the user's flexibility of Ward's system by allowing the user to control how and when others are to be so notified (col. 2, lines 25-36).

11. As per claim 4, Ward and Cote taught the invention substantially as claimed in claim 1 above. Ward further taught wherein detecting an alert condition includes detecting an alert condition within a plurality of subsystems of a network management application (col. 7, lines 19-24).

12. As per claim 9, Ward and Cote taught the invention substantially as claimed in claim 1 above. Ward further taught wherein the determining the notification path includes analyzing a parameter associated with the alert condition and selecting the notification path based on the parameter (col. 5, lines 33-45; col. 7, lines 19-27).

13. As per claim 17, Ward and Cote taught the invention substantially as claimed in claim 1 above. Cote further taught comprising identifying the occurrence of a prior alert condition that was not responded to, and wherein the multi-tier notification path is determined based at least in part on the occurrence of the prior alert condition (col. 7, lines 19-27).

14. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Ward and Cote for the same reason set forth in claim 1 above.

Art Unit: 2154

15. As per claim 20, Ward and Cote taught the invention substantially as claimed in claim 1 above. Although Cote taught constructing an additional notification (it is inherent that an additional notification must be constructed in order to notify another member at a later time) if the notification message is not addressed within a designated time limit, however Ward and Cote did not teach constructing if the notification message is not responded to within a designated time limit. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to include constructing an additional notification if the notification message is responded within a designated time limit because by doing so it would increase the user's alertness in Ward's and Cote's systems by providing non-responded notification to others to avoid alert to escalate to a sever condition.

16. As per claim 21, Ward and Cote taught the invention substantially as claimed in claim 1 above. Cote further taught comprising constructing an additional audio notification message if the alert condition is not addressed within a designated time limit (col. 7, lines 17-27).

17. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Ward and Cote for the same reason set forth in claim 1 above.

18. As per claim 22, Ward and Cote taught the invention substantially as claimed in claim 1 above. Cote further taught comprising filtering the notification message such that at least one

Art Unit: 2154

user on the multi-tiered notification path does not receive the notification message (col. 7, lines 19-27) (i.e. the manager (notification path) does not receive the notification message).

19. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Ward and Cote for the same reason set forth in claim 1 above.

20. Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ward and Cote in view of Fischer, U.S. Patent 4,881,197 (hereinafter Fischer).

21. Fischer was cited in the last office action.

22. As per claim 5, Ward and Cote taught the invention substantially as claimed in claim 1 above. Ward and Cote did not teach defining audio characteristics. Fischer taught defining audio characteristics associated with the audio notification message (col. 3, lines 38-42; col. 4, lines 3-21; col. 8, lines 31-45).

23. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Ward, Cote and Fischer because Fischer's teaching of defining audio characteristics would increase the user's flexibility of Ward's and Cote's systems by allowing a user with a flexible and efficient mechanism for simultaneously

Art Unit: 2154

utilizing the highlighting features distinctive to each particular device on which the document or message is displayed or produced (col. 4, lines 3-7).

24. As per claim 6, Ward, Cote and Fischer taught the invention substantially as claimed in claim 5 above. Fischer further taught wherein the audio characteristic is a volume (col. 3, lines 38-42; col. 4, lines 3-21; col. 8, lines 31-45).

25. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Ward, Cote and Fischer for the same reason set forth in claim 5 above.

26. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ward and Cote in view of Sabourin et al, U.S. Patent 6,037,099 (hereinafter Sabourin).

27. Sabourin was cited in the last office action.

28. As per claim 3, Ward and Cote taught the invention substantially as claimed in claim 1 above. Ward and Cote did not teach identifying a portion of the message that is likely to be difficult to understand. Sabourin taught wherein constructing an audio notification message includes identifying a portion of the message that is likely to be difficult for a user to understand and replacing the identified portion with a more easily understood synonym (col. 10, line 60-col. 11, lines 8).

29. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Ward, Cote and Sabourin because Sabourin's teaching of identifying a portion of the message that is likely to be difficult to understand would increase the alertness in Ward's and Cote's systems by allowing the system to find and replace words that tend to cause high confusability (col. 10, line 60-col. 11, line 8).

30. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ward and Cote in view of Miller et al, U.S. Patent 6,421,707 (hereinafter Miller).

31. Miller was cited in the last office action.

32. As per claim 8, Ward and Cote taught the invention substantially as claimed in claim 1 above. Ward and Cote did not teach the audio message presented in accordance with a filter. Miller taught wherein the audio messages presented in accordance with a filter (col. 6, lines 30-40).

33. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Ward, Cote and Miller because Miller's teaching of audio messages presented in accordance with a filter would increase the user's flexibility in Ward's and Cote's systems by allowing a user to determine how individual or

Art Unit: 2154

groups of messages are handled, depending upon characteristics of the messages themselves (col. 6, lines 31-33).

34. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ward and Cote in view of Carleton, U.S. Patent Application Publication 2001/0044840 (hereinafter Carleton).

35. Carleton was cited in the last office action.

36. As per claim 10, Ward and Cote taught the invention substantially as claimed in claim 1 above. Ward and Cote did not teach an escalation list. Carleton taught wherein determining the notification path includes analyzing an escalation list (page 1, paragraph 9; page 3, paragraph 53).

37. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Ward, Cote and Carleton because Carleton's teaching of escalation list would increase the alertness of Ward's and Cote's systems by providing a mechanism by which a problem can receive increasing levels of attention to expedite and assure proper remediation (page 1, paragraph 9).

38. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ward and Cote in view of Goldberg et al, U.S. Patent 6,161,082 (hereinafter Goldberg).

Art Unit: 2154

39. Goldberg was cited in the last office action.

40. As per claim 11, Ward and Cote taught the invention substantially as claimed in claim 1 above. Ward and Cote did not teach audio message based on language preference. Goldberg taught wherein constructing the audio notification message includes:

determining a user associated with the audio notification message (col. 3, lines 34-56; col. 5, lines 22-24);

determining a language preference associated with the user (col. 3, lines 34-56; col. 5, lines 1-13, 25-34; col. 6, lines 27-28); and

constructing the audio message based on the language preference (col. 3, lines 34-56; col. 6, lines 34-38).

41. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Ward, Cote and Goldberg because Goldberg's teaching of audio message based on the language preference would increase the functionality of Ward's and Cote's systems by providing supports to multiple user and to translate communication inputs that are received in any of a wide variety of languages into communication outputs that are transmitted in any of a wide variety of languages (col. 2, lines 45-50).

Art Unit: 2154

42. Claims 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ward and Cote in view of Jones et al, U. S. Patent Application Publication 2004/0210469 (hereinafter Jones).

43. As per claims 18 and 19, Ward and Cote taught the invention substantially as claimed in claim 1 above. Ward and Cote did not teach assigning the level of responsibility based upon the severity. Jones taught assigning the level of responsibility to each of the one or more user based upon the severity of the alert condition (page 2, paragraph 33; page 9, paragraph 119).

44. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Ward, Cote and Jones because Jones's teaching of assigning the level of responsibility based upon the severity would increase the flexibility of Ward's and Cote's systems by controlling which management level or personnel will receive the alerting message based on the escalation level (page 3, paragraph 45).

45. Claims 23 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ward and Cote in view of Lawson et al, U. S. Patent 6,185,613 (hereinafter Lawson).

46. As per claim 23, Ward and Cote taught the invention substantially as claimed in claim 1 above. Ward and Cote did not teach filtering based on a property associated with an object associated with the alert condition. Lawson taught comprising filtering the notification message

Art Unit: 2154

based on a property associated with an object associated with the alert condition (col. 5, lines 35-53).

47. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Ward, Cote and Lawson because Lawson's teaching of filtering based on a property associated with an object associated with the alert condition would increase the efficiency of their system by allowing a event consumer to prevent notification of irrelevant event (col. 5, lines 35-37).

48. As per claim 24, Ward, Cote and Lawson taught the invention substantially as claimed in claim 23 above. Although Lawson taught wherein the property is selected from the group consisting of a type of the object (col. 5, lines 35-53), a name of the object (col. 10, lines 33-37), a location of the object (col. 5, lines 35-53), the time of day (col. 16, lines 34-35), and any of the information available in the packet (col. 24, lines 36-41), however, Ward, Cote and Lawson did not specifically teach the severity of the alert condition, a level of risk, and an importance assigned to the object. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to include different type of property such as severity, level of risk and importance of the object because by doing so it would increase the field of use in their system.

Art Unit: 2154

49. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ward, Cote and Fischer in view of "Official Notice".

50. As per claim 7, Ward, Cote and Fischer taught the invention substantially as claimed in claim 5 above. Ward, Cote and Fischer did not specifically detailing different audio characteristics. "Official Notice" is taken for the concept of a balance as an audio characteristic is known and accepted in the art. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to include balance as an audio characteristic because by doing so would increase the user's flexibility by allowing a user to include any type of audio characteristics as a design choice.

51. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 3-11, 13,15 and 17-24, filed 1/13/06, have been fully considered and are moot in view of new grounds of rejection.

52. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Gold et al, U.S. Patent 6,058,494, disclosed a method of filtering based on the severity of the alert condition.

53. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Art Unit: 2154

54. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Philip Lee whose telephone number is (571) 272-3967. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9600.

Philip Lee


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